

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1674 without my signature.

While I share the authors' goals of using research and standardized practices to improve quality of care and control health care costs, existing government entities and private programs have already undertaken much of the work envisioned by this legislation. The federal government's Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the RAND Corporation, and a wide range of other private and academic entities are already engaged in health care quality research activities. The University of California has many researchers at the forefront of these efforts.

The legislation also includes a number of fatal technical problems. The bill erroneously gives the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency responsibilities under the Knox-Keene Act, which is administered by the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency through the Department of Managed Health Care.

For these reasons I am returning AB 1674 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger